

MEANS FOR MEASURING THE LIQUID LEVEL
IN A RESERVOIR FOR A FUEL CELL

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A small fuel cell (10) powers a portable electronic device (12) and contains a
fuel reservoir (14) and a device (16) that measures the amount of liquid fuel (18) that
is in the reservoir. The fuel cell operates on hydrogen that is obtained from a liquid
hydrocarbon fuel, such as alcohol or other hydrocarbons. The liquid fuel is typically
converted into hydrogen by a reforming process. The reservoir that is connected to the
10 fuel cell has an indicia (19) that is readable by a human user of the portable electronic
device, for measuring the amount of liquid hydrocarbon fuel that is present in the
reservoir. Typically, the indicia consist of a sight glass, a capacitive element, a
resistive element, a transparent portion of the reservoir, a float, or an acoustic
transmitter coupled with an acoustic receiver.